

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 10713

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PINT, SREF, UR

SUBJECT: NEW MOVES AGAINST JEWISH EMIGRANTS

1. SUMMARY. JEWISH SOURCES TELL US OF NEW RESTRICTIVE INTERPRETATIONS OF AND CHANGES IN THE PROCEDURES GOVERNING EMIGRATION. IN ONE CITY THE POLICE HAVE BECOME INVOLVED IN DISTRIBUTING "VYZOVS" LETTERS OF INVITATION, IN OTHER CITIES A NEW AND RESTRICTIVE DEFINITION OF WHAT CONSTITUTES A "FAMILY" MAY RESULT IN A LESSENING IN THE NUMBER OF APPLICANTS FOR EMIGRATION. IN ANOTHER CITY, WITH A LARGE JEWISH COMMUNITY, ONLY ONE VYZOV HAS BEEN RECEIVED IN TWO MONTHS. OUR SOURCES SPEAK OF A POSSIBLE CAMPAIGN IN THE WEST TO PRESSURE THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO CHANGE THEIR POSITION. END SUMMARY.

2. JEWISH DISSIDENTA MARK AZBEL AND VIKTOR BRAYLOVSKIY TOLD US JULY 6 OF NEW MOVES BY THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO KEEP DOWN THE NUMBER OF POTENTIAL JEWISH EMIGRANTS. IN ODESSA, OUR SOURCES SAY, THE POSTAL AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN TOLD TO GIVE ALL VYZOVS WHICH THEY RECEIVE TO THE POLICE. THE LATTER CALL IN THE ADDRESSESS AND ASK FIRST IF HE HAS ANY RELATIVES IN ISRAEL. IF THE ANSWER IS NO (EITHER FROM FEAR OF REVEALING THIS FACT OR BECAUSE THERE ARE NONE), THE VYZOV IS THROWN AWAY. IF THE ANSWER IS YES, THE NEXT QUESTION IS TO ASK FOR
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THE NAME OF THE RELATIVE. THE VYZOV IS DISCARDED IF

THE NAME DOES NOT CORRESPOND TO THAT GIVEN BY THE ADDRESSEE. IF THE NAMES CORRESPOND, THE ADDRESSEE IS THEN ASKED ABOUT THE NATURE OF THE RELATIONSHIP. HE GETS HIS VYZOV ONLY IF THE RELATIONSHIP CORRESPONDS.

3. OUR SOURCES REPORT THAT THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE POLICE IN ODESSA HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR ABOUT A MONTH. THEY OBSERVE RUEFULLY THAT THIS APPROACH GIVES THE AUTHORITIES SEVERAL ADVANTAGES (AND ADD THAT IT IS ODD THAT THE AUTHORITIES HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT OF THIS TACTIC). FIRST, THERE IS THE NATURAL FEAR OF ANY SOVIET CITIZEN TO HAVE ANY CONFRONTATION WITH THE POLICE. MORE SIGNIFICANTLY, HOWEVER, GIVEN THE LARGE NUMBRS OF WHOLLY OR PARTIALLY FALSE ISRAELI VYZOVs (FICATIONAL RELATIVES OR A FICTITIOUS RELATIONSHIP), THIS POLICY, IF EXTENDED TO THE USSR AS A WHOLE, WOULD GREATLY REDUCE THE POTENTIAL POOL OF JEWS ABLE TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR EMIGRATION. OUR SOURCES SAY THAT THEY, AND BY IMPLICATION THE JEWISH COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE, ARE EXTREMELY CONCERNED ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF AN EXTENSION OF THE ODESSAN APPROACH.

4. AZBEL AND BRAYLOVSKIY ALSO REPORT THAT ONLY ONE VYZOV HAS, TO THEIR KNOWLEDGE, BEEN RECEIVED IN KHARKOV IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS. THEY SAU THAT SEVERAL KHARKOV JEWS HAD RECEIVED CABLES OR TELEPHONE CALLS FROM ABROAD INFORMING THEM THAT VYZOVs WERE ON THE WAY, BUT ONLY ONE HAS GOTTEN THROUGH. THEY ADDED THAT THE RECIPIENT OF THE VYZOV TREATED THE EVENT AS THE OCCASION FOR A PARTY, AND IT WAS THEN, ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO, THAT IT BECAME CLEAR JUST HOW BAD THE EMIGRATION SITUATION HAD BECOME IN THAT CITY. (THERE ARE ALMOST 77,000 JEWS IN KHARKOV OBLAST, ACCORDING TO THE 1970 CENSUS.)

5. OTHER RELIABLE SOURCES REPORT THAT THE NEW DEFINITION OF FAMILY, I.X. FOR THE PURPOSE OF EMIGRATION, A FAMILY TO BE "REUNIFIED" WOULD BE CONSIDERED AS HUSBAND, WIFE, AND UNMARRIED (OR MINOR) CHILDREN -- IS BEING APPLIED NOT ONLY IN MOSCOW (SEE MOSCOW 10146) BUT ALSO IN KIEV, KISHINEV AND NOVOSIBIRSK. THESE SOURCES CAUTION THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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THEY HAVE STILL NOT SEEN EVIDENCE THAT THE NEW DEFINITION WILL BE APPLIED ON AN ALL-UNION BASIS. OUR SOURCES CLAIM THAT SEVERAL OVIR HAVE SAID THAT THE NEW POLICY FULLY ACCORDS WITH THE HELSINKI PRINCIPLES AND WILL BE APPLIED IN THE FUTURE. THEY NOTE THAT IT WOULD BE IN KEEPING WITH THE CUSTOMARY SOVIET APPROACH TO SUCH MATTERS THAT THEY DECIDE TO MAKE THEIR POLICY ON JEWISH EMIGRATION MORE STRICT WHILE AT THE SAME TIME WRAPPING

THEMSELVES IN THE CSCE FINAL ACT.

6. OUR SOURCES SAY THAT IF THEY CAN GET EVIDENCE OF A CHANGE TOWARD GREATER RESTRICTIVENESS IN DEGREE OF CONSANGUINITY, THE JEWISH "REFUSENIK" LEADERSHIP WILL ENDEAVOR TO MOUNT A CAMPAIGN IN THE WEST, ESPECIALLY IN THE U.S. THEY TELL US THAT THEY FEEL THE NEWLY-CREATED U.S. CONGRESSIONAL CSCE COULD BE USEFUL COMMISSION IN THIS EFFORT. THEY ADD THAT THE AMERICAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN MIGHT ALSO PROVIDE THEM WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE THEIR POINT.

7. COMMENT: IF THESE RESTRICTIVE MEASURES ARE INDEED TO BE APPLIED ON AN ALL-UNION BASIS, IT WOULD MAKE THE SITUATION OF THE WOULD-BE EMIGRANT EVEN MORE DIFFICULT THAN IT ALREADY IS. APPLICATION OF THE ODESSA AND THE "CSCE DEFINITION" MEASURES UNDOUBTEDLY WOULD DIMINISH THE NUMBER OF SOVIET JEWS ABLE EVEN TO APPLY SUCCESSFULLY FOR EMIGRATION. WE FEEL IT QUITE POSSIBLE THAT WIDER USE OF THE MEASURES WOULD CAUSE THE REFUSENIKS TO TRY TO ORGANIZE A CAMPAIGN.

8. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE NOTE THAT THE INFORMATION WE REPORT HERE HAS COME FROM SEVERAL OF THE DIFFERENT GROUPS THAT MAKE UP THE REFUSENIK COMMUNITY. WHILE THESE GROUPS TEND TO BE MUTUALLY ANTIPATHETIC, RESTRICTIONS ON EMIGRATION AND A GENERALIZED TIGHTENING UP ON THE PROCEDURES COULD WELL PROVIDE THE IMPETUS FOR THEM TO UNITE. THE REFUSENIK GROUPS NORMALLY HAVE SEPARATE LINES OF COMMUNICATION TO DIFFERENT WESTERN ORGANIZATIONS AND PROMINENT INDIVIDUALS: AN AGREEMENT TO COORDINATE ACTION IN THE USSR AND IN THE WEST COULD

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RESULT IN AN UNUSUALLY VIGOROUS CAMPAIGN.
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